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From the President: The Show Must Go On

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This issue of DePaul Magazine is all about our students and the incredible resilience they have demonstrated over the past year.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

A recent episode of our university's podcast, "DePaul Download," featured **Maricruz Menchero (THE MFA '20)**. Last spring, at the start of the pandemic, she faced a dilemma. The theatrical production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" could no longer happen as planned. Maricruz and her fellow castmates in The Theatre School asked, "Would the show go on?" and more specifically, "How could it go on?"

Then they did what artists do and got creative. They decided to transform the live, onstage event into a radio drama, which debuted in May 2020. The production not only allowed DePaul's theatre students to enhance their acting skills, but also introduced them to the world of voiceover work, an industry that is flourishing due to the pandemic.

That is resilience.

This issue of DePaul Magazine is all about our students and the incredible resilience they have demonstrated over the past year. Their strength, their determination, their tenacity are nothing short of extraordinary. It's also not surprising, given who we are at DePaul.

Our student-athletes are another example of resilience. When our students learned that fall sports had been postponed, they expressed disappointment, but also understanding. They recognized the importance of keeping not only themselves safe, but also our surrounding community. They found innovative solutions to maintain long-standing traditions, including service projects.

This year, instead of all our athletes coming together to design and decorate blankets at the annual Wintrust Blankets Chicago event, individual teams developed their own creative ways to participate. The soccer team spaced themselves out on Wish Field. Softball team members worked individually or with their roommates. All the blankets went to preschool children at the St. Vincent de Paul Center day care program. This work follows the service projects student-athletes engaged in last spring and summer, such as creating kids' activity videos and writing letters to senior citizens.

Working closely with community partners always has been central to DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian mission to serve the public good. The pandemic has exposed even greater needs in the Chicago community, and DePaul must continue to answer the call.

In fact, as this issue of the magazine is going to press, DePaul student-nurses and faculty are administering COVID-19 vaccines at community sites set up by the Chicago Department of Public Health. DePaul was one of a small group of Chicago institutions selected to do so, and our nursing students received special training—an experience that will likely have a lasting impact on their careers. Their resilience, as both students and caregivers, is literally helping our surrounding community recover from the pandemic.

Together, our resilience as a university will help revitalize Chicago and the nation.

Take Care, DePaul.

Gabriel Esteban

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD
President